

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 12560

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: NOTES FOR ANALYSTS OF PRC DOMESTIC POLITICS

REF: (A) 77 HONG KONG 16004, (B) PEKING 2652

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA'S
INTERNAL POLITICS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO WORKING-LEVEL
INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS.

2. LOW-KEYED COMMEMORATION OF MAO'S 2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

THE TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF RED FLAG,
CARRIED BY THE SEPTEMBER 3 PEOPLE'S DAILY, REVEALS THAT THE
MAGAZINE'S LEAD ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND
CANTON MILITARY REGION (MR) COMMANDER HSU SHIH-YU, IS THE
PARTY THEORETICAL JOURNAL'S ONLY PIECE IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO. THERE
WERE MANY MORE ARTICLES COMMEMORATING MAO'S DEATH IN THE
SEPTEMBER 1977 EDITION OF RED FLAG. RED FLAG'S COMMEMORATION
OF MAO THIS YEAR IS FURTHER DILUTED BY THE FACT THAT HE
SHARES THE HONORS OF BEREAVEMENT WITH THE LATE PARTY
MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION SECRETARY-GENERAL LO

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JUI-CHING, WHO IS EULOGIZED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
YANG YUNG IN AN ARTICLE IMMEDIATEPM FOLLOWING HSU'S.
THIS LOW-KEYED COMMEMORATION OF MAO IS IN LINE WITH
THE GENERAL TREND OVER THE PAST YEAR TO DE-MYTHOLOGIZE
THE DEPARTED LEADER.

3. HSU SHIH-YU IS AN UNUSUAL CHOICE FOR THE HONOR

OF COMMEMORATING MAO. WE DO NOT RECALL THAT HSU IN RECENT YEARS HAS WRITTEN ANY OTHER ARTICLES. HERETOFORE HSU'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONFINED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO REGIONAL MILITARY AFFAIRS, BUT THIS RED FLAG ARTICLE GIVES HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROJECT HIMSELF IN A NATIONAL POLITICAL ROLE.

4. THE CHOICE OF HSU TO WRITE THIS PIECE CALLS TO MIND THE PROMINENCE AFFORDED HSU HSIANG-CHIEN LAST JANUARY WHEN HE DELIVERED THE NEW YEAR'S RADIO MESSAGE TO THE NATION. IN RESTROSPECT, HSU HSIANG-CHIEN'S MESSAGE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SIGNAL THAT HE WOULD BE CHOSEN THE FOLLOWING MONTH TO SUCCEED YEH CHIEN-YING AS DEFENSE MINISTER. WITH HSU HSIANG-CHIEN NOW ILL IN THE HOSPITAL, HSU SHIH-YU MAY BE WAITING IN THE WINGS TO REPLACE HIM. LATE LAST YEAR THERE WERE MANY RUMORS THAT THE CANTON MR COMMANDER WAS TENG HSIAO-PING'S CHOICE FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTER JOB.

5. YANG YUNG'S AUTHORSHIP OF THE EUOLOGY TO LO JUI-CHING MAY ALSO SIGNAL A PROMOTION FOR YANG, POSSIBLY TO REPLACE LO AS MAC SECRETARY-GENERAL.

6. SIGNS OF A DEEPENING RECTIFICATION CAMPAIGN.
A SEPTEMBER 7 PEKING DOMESTIC BROADCAST ON THE CAMPAIGN TO ROOT OUT GANG OF FOUR INFLUENCE IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY MINISTRY STATES THAT UNTIL RECENTLY THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN LIMITED TO INVESTIGATION OF THE PERIOD SINCE THE 10TH PARTY CONGRESS (AUGUST 1973) AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ANTI-LIN ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN (1974) HOWEVER, "WITH THE DEEPENING OF THE STRUGGLE, IT IS SEEN EVER CLEARER THAT THE CRIMES OF THE GANG OF FOUR AND THE LIN PIAO LINE ARE ACTUALLY LINKED TOGETHER AND CANNOT BE CLEARLY SEPARATED."

7. THIS BROADCAST REPRESENTS A CLEAR, PUBLIC BREAK WITH THE CENTRAL DIRECTIVE LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL A) WHICH CALLED FOR FOCUSING THE ANTI-GANG CAMPAIGN ON THE POST-1973 PERIOD. THIS APPARENT SHIFT MAY INDICATE A PUSH BY TENG AND HIS ALLIES TO INTENSIFY THE EFFORT TO PURGE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THEIR POLITICAL RIVALS DURING THE PAST TWELVE YEARS. AN EARLIER SIGN THAT THIS INTENSIFICATION WAS DESIRED BY SOME QUARTERS WAS AN AUGUST 2 KWANGMING DAILY ARTICLE WHICH PRAISED TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY FOR ITS FEARLESS INVESTIGATION OF ALL GANG ACTIONS OF THE PAST DECADE. THE ARTICLE COMPARED TSINGHUA FAVORABLY WITH UNNAMED

UNITS WHICH HAD LIMITED THE FOCUS OF THEIR ANTI-GANG CAMPAIGN TO MORE RECENT YEARS FOR FEAR OF BEING ACCUSED OF "NEGATING THE CULTURAL REVOLKRMON" AND SEEKING TO SETTLE OLD SCORES.

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8. THE RELATIVELY SWEEPING RECTIFICATION CAMPAIGNS AT THE METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY MINISTRY AND TSINGHUA FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF TENG'S JUNE 2 PLA POLITICAL WORK CONFERENCE SPEECH, IN WHICH HE SAID LIN PIAO AND HIS LINE SHOULD BE CRITICIZED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GANG AND THIS LINKAGE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS NEGATING THE CR OR AS DETRIMENTAL TO UNITY.

9. WU TEH'S PROBLEMS.

ON SEPTEMBER 4 A USLO OFFICER SAW IN CANTON A PUBLICLY POSTED COPY OF THE RESTRICTED PEKING DAILY (PEICHING JIH PAO) WHICH REPORTED THAT ON AUGUST 30 A 10,000-MAN RALLY IN PEKING HAD CRITICIZED THE PEKING MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU. THE ARTICLE SAID OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU HAD STATED DURING THE RALLY THAT THIRTEEN OF THEIR COLLEAGUES HAD RECOGNIZED THEIR UNSPECIFIED "ERRORS." THIS RALLY OCCURRED AS THE PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTRY'S AUGUST 11-31 NATIONAL MEETING ON SOCIAL ORDER WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. CRITICISM OF THE PEKING MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU HAS BEEN A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE CURRENT WAVE OF ATTACKS AGAINST PEKING PARTY CHIEF WU TEH (REFTEL B).

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10. ON THE SAME TOPIC, HONG KONG'S INDEPENDENT
MING PAO ON AUGUST 24 CARRIED AN AUGUST 23 KYODO
NEWS SERVICE REPORT FROM PEKING WHICH STATED THAT
MANY PERSONS IN PEKING HOPED THAT ANHWEI PARTY FIRST
SECRETARY WAN LI WOULD REPLACE WU TEH. ACCORDING TO
KYODO, WAN LI, WHO SERVED AS VICE MAYOR OF PEKING
BEFORE THE CR, WAS RUMORED TO HAVE ARRANGED EARLIER
THIS SUMMER TO SHIP GRAIN TO PEKING BECAUSE OF AN
ALLEGED COMMODITY SHORTAGE IN THE CAPITAL.
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